

1 **OVERTURE 2** from North Texas Presbytery (to OC, CCB, AC)
2 “Form Ad Interim Committee to Prepare Proposed Revisions to *WCF* 21-8;
3 *WLC* 117, 119; and *WSC* 60, 61 Regarding Sabbath”
4

5 **Whereas** the grounds stated in Overture 7 to the 41st General Assembly of the PCA by
6 North Texas Presbytery are still of valid concern; and
7

8 **Whereas** the 41st General Assembly responded to Overture 7 in the negative with the
9 following **Grounds**: “*It would be better if Presbyteries that have concerns or*
10 *questions with WCF 21:8, WLC 117 and 119 and WSC 60 and 61 would adopt*
11 *overtures proposing specific changes to the Westminster documents so that the*
12 *General Assembly can be clear as to the scope of the issues and whether a study*
13 *committee is necessary.*” (*M41GA*, p. 66) In submission to the direction and counsel
14 of the 41st General Assembly; and
15

16 **Whereas** a growing number of teaching elder candidates have taken and have had approved
17 stated differences to these portions of the Westminster Standards; and
18

19 **Whereas** this reality, at least, causes the appearance of conflict between what we officially
20 confess and what we actually believe and practice; and
21

22 **Whereas** we understand the resolution of this situation will take considerable study, work,
23 and debate;
24

25 **Therefore be it resolved** that the North Texas Presbytery overtures the Forty-Third General
26 Assembly of the PCA to erect a study committee, as requested in Overture 7 to the
27 41st General Assembly, to consider changes to the portions of the Westminster
28 Standards [*WCF* 21-8; *WLC* Q&As 117, 119; *WSC* Q&As 60, 61] referred to in the
29 “Grounds” for the 41st Assembly’s response, above. The budget for such study
30 committee is not to exceed \$5,000 funded by North Texas Presbytery.
31

32 *Adopted by North Texas Presbytery at its stated meeting February 07, 2015*

33 *Attested by /s/ TE David M. Frierson, stated clerk*
34
35

36 **Possible language for study committee to consider, approved by North Texas Presbytery:**

37 [~~Strike through~~ for deletions; underlining for new wording;]
38

39 *WCF* 21-8. This Sabbath is then kept holy unto the Lord, when men, after a
40 due preparing of their hearts, and ordering of their common affairs
41 beforehand, do not only observe an holy rest, all the day, from their own
42 works, words, and thoughts about their worldly employments ~~and recreations,~~
43 but also are taken up, ~~the whole time,~~ in the public and private exercises of his
44 worship, and in the duties of necessity and mercy.
45
46

1 *WLC Q. 117. How is the Sabbath or the Lord's Day to be sanctified?*

2 A. The Sabbath or Lord's Day is to be sanctified by an holy resting all the
3 day, not only from such works as are at all times sinful, but even from
4 such worldly employments ~~and recreations~~ as are on other days lawful;
5 and making it our delight to spend ~~the whole time~~ (~~except so much of it as~~
6 ~~is to be taken up in works of necessity and mercy~~) in the public and private
7 exercises of God's worship: and, to that end, we are to prepare our hearts,
8 and with such foresight, diligence, and moderation, to dispose and
9 seasonably dispatch our worldly business, that we may be the more free
10 and fit for the duties of that day, including focusing on public and private
11 worship as well as works of necessity and mercy.
12

13 *WLC Q. 119. What are the sins forbidden in the fourth commandment?*

14 A. The sins forbidden in the fourth commandment are all omissions of the
15 duties required, all careless, negligent, and unprofitable performing of
16 them, and being weary of them; all profaning the day by idleness, and
17 doing that which is in itself sinful; and by all needless works, words, and
18 thoughts, about our worldly employments ~~and recreations~~.
19

20 *WSC Q. 60. How is the Sabbath to be sanctified?*

21 A. The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from
22 such worldly employments ~~and recreations~~ as are lawful on other days;
23 and spending ~~the whole time~~ in the public and private exercises of God's
24 worship, ~~except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and~~
25 ~~mercy~~ as well as engaging in works of necessity and mercy.
26

27 *WSC Q. 61. What is forbidden in the fourth commandment?*

28 A. The fourth commandment forbiddeth the omission, or careless performance,
29 of the duties required, and the profaning the day by idleness, or doing that
30 which is in itself sinful, or by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works,
31 about our worldly employments ~~or recreations~~.